



# COROMANDEL WINTER ESCAPE

HOME – ROTORUA – WHITIANGA – CAMBRIDGE – TAUPO – HOME

21 August 2023



8 Day Fully Hosted Tour

Pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti and Wellington



## COROMANDEL WINTER ESCAPE 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### MON 21 Home – Rotorua (D)

This morning we depart and travel along the pretty Kapiti Coast then cross the fertile Manawatu Plains through the Mangaweka Hills to reach the Tongariro Volcanic Plateau and drive over the Desert Road with spectacular views of the volcanoes of Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe.

We continue our journey travelling around the shores of Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake to the resort town of Taupo, before travelling through vast pine forests to Rotorua in the heart of New Zealand's famous geothermal region. Welcome dinner tonight at our hotel.

### TUE 22 Rotorua (B) (D)

Today we have a leisurely start before a drive around central Rotorua and the lake shore. From here we will head out through the Rotorua lakes passing Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) and Lake Rotokākahi (Green Lake) before arriving at the Buried Village.

At the **Buried Village** we see remains of the Maori village of Te Wairoa that was devastated by the volcanic eruption of Mt Tarawera during the night of June 10, 1886. The excavated village offers a firsthand insight into the chaos and destruction that ensued following the eruption of Mt Tarawera. This eruption also destroyed the famed Pink and White Terraces.

We then drive out to the **Redwoods Forest** for a walk around. The forest is most well-known for the network of superb mountain biking and walking tracks and for the magnificent stand of Californian Coast Redwoods.

Afterwards we visit **Polynesian Spa** for a warm Sulphur Swim, taking the chance to relax and indulge in the naturally heated geothermal pools, renowned for their restorative properties.

### WED 23 Rotorua – Whitianga (B) (D)

Today we leave Rotorua travelling past pretty Lake Rotoiti towards Te Puke in the heart of kiwifruit growing country. Stopping at Mt Maunganui for morning tea, which is New Zealand's top beach resort, before we travel north on towards the Coromandel Peninsula through Waihi which is an old gold mining settlement.

Here we join a **local guide to learn the fascinating and unique story of gold in Waihi**. Whilst mining operations are ordinarily off-limits to the public, your guide will take you **inside the fence** to experience modern-day gold mining up close. After being fitted out with safety gear and a safety briefing, move inside the security fence to see the mine operations from the best available vantage points. See every stage of the process from ore extraction and crushing, through to final processing and see massive mining equipment too. Your guide will relate colourful stories from the mine's past and discover how much gold and silver the Martha Mine has yielded since 1878. During the tour learn how gold mining has shaped Waihi's economic and social landscape.

From Waihi continue through Whangamata and up to Whitianga. Rustic relaxed and unspoiled, the Coromandel is one of New Zealand's best-loved holiday destinations. The rugged volcanic hills are cloaked in native rainforest, and more than 400 kilometres of spectacular coastline promises you can find the beach of your dreams.

The eastern side of the Coromandel is furnished with an amazing collection of white sand and surf beaches, and an impressive, heavily forested mountain range runs right up the middle of the peninsula. Dinner is at a local restaurant.



## Trip Highlights

- A WALK THROUGH THE REDWOOD FOREST
- VISIT LAKE TIKITAPU (BLUE LAKE) AND LAKE ROTOKAKAHI (GREEN LAKE)
- BURIED VILLAGE OF TE WAIROA
- RELAX IN SULPHUR POOLS AT THE POLYNESIAN SPA
- PRIVATE TOUR OF THE GOLD MINING STORY "INSIDE THE FENCE" IN WAIHI
- VISIT HAHEI & HOT WATER BEACH
- MERCURY BAY MUSEUM
- CRUISE TO CATHEDRAL COVE & BEYOND
- RIDE ON THE FAMED OPEN SIDED **DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY TRAIN**
- TOUR MIDDLE-EARTH (HOBBITON MOVIE SET)
- HERD OF COWS? (ART INSTALLATION)

## Coromandel Winter Escape

The Coromandel Peninsula is one of New Zealand's best-kept secrets. It is an area of beautiful golden sand beaches and magnificent native forests.

Our eight-day Coromandel Tour incorporates some of the best sights and beaches of the area, including the historic Gold Mining town of Waihi, Whangamata, Driving Creek Railway, Cathedral Cove, Hot Water Beach and Whitianga, while travelling at a relaxed and leisurely pace.

Beginning on the Kapiti Coast we journey north, across the Desert Road, a central volcanic plateau along State Highway 1, that winds its way up to native manuka scrub, which gives way to fields of golden tussock grass, arriving in Rotorua mid-afternoon. Discover urban delights, geothermal wonders, and the splendor of New Zealand's largest lake.

Continuing our journey through to Whitianga, a lovely seaside settlement on the Coromandel Peninsula, here we find a place we can leave the stresses of life behind. Our time in Whitianga is spent exploring all things Coromandel, before heading west over to the fabulous Driving Creek Railway. Farewelling the Coromandel, we head through Thames to Morrinsville's and the famous "Herd of Cows?", before travelling on to explore tranquil Sanctuary Mountain and movie magic at Hobbiton.

Further south we stop in Taupo for our final farewell before heading further south again through the central plateau, across the Manawatu Plains and back to the spectacular Kapiti Coast.

### THU 24 Coromandel

(B) (L) (D)

This morning we have breakfast at a local café before travelling to **Hot Water Beach** (tides permitting). Beach visit only.

We then continue on to lovely Hahei beach and Village and up to the Mercury Bay lookout for spectacular views over the Coromandel.

**Lunch today is at Colenso Café.** With a licensed cafe, gift shop, orchard and beautiful gardens, Colenso Cafe has long been a favorite of locals, holidaymakers, and visitors.

From here the coach will deliver the group at Ferry Landing to take the ferry to Whitianga – then it is just a short walk to the **Mercury Bay Museum**. This small but fascinating museum features exhibits about the Polynesian navigator Kupe, Maori artifacts, the Endeavour and James Cook, HMS Buffalo (sunk 1840), kauri timber and gum, the old dairy factory in which the museum is housed, early settlers' records, natural history, fishing displays and a wonderful photographic collection. Time here until the museum closes at 3pm then remainder of afternoon at leisure.

Dine this evening at a local restaurant.

### FRI 25 Coromandel Peninsula

(B) (D)

This morning we take breakfast at a local café, before our fabulous cruise out to Cathedral Cove and beyond.

Returning just before lunch, the rest of the day is yours at leisure in Whitianga. You may wish to soak up the underground thermal minerals at The Lost Spring or just read a good book. This evening we reconvene for dinner at a local restaurant.

### SAT 26 Whitianga - Hamilton

(B) (D)

This morning we say goodbye to Whitianga and travel through the small settlement of Kuaotunu over to Coromandel township, then up to Driving Creek Railway. Here we enjoy the delights of a **scenic ride in this open sided Driving Creek Railway train** on its 3km narrow gauge track with 3 tunnels, 2 spirals, 5 reversing points and 6 viaducts originally constructed to retrieve clay for the local potter Barry Brickell. It now provides a wonderful ride through the thick regenerating Coromandel bush with a fantastic view at the mountain top terminus (The Eye-full Tower!).

Departing **Driving Creek Railway** we follow the coastline down the Coromandel Peninsula to Thames, our lunch stop today. We continue onwards through the Waikato farmland before stopping in the farming town of Morrinsville. Here we wander along the main street and view a collection of life-size cow sculptures "Herd of Cows" scattered throughout the town showcasing the history and heritage of Morrinsville. We reboard our coach and travel on to the Cambridge. We dine together tonight at our hotel.



## SUN 27 Hamilton - Taupo

(B) (D)

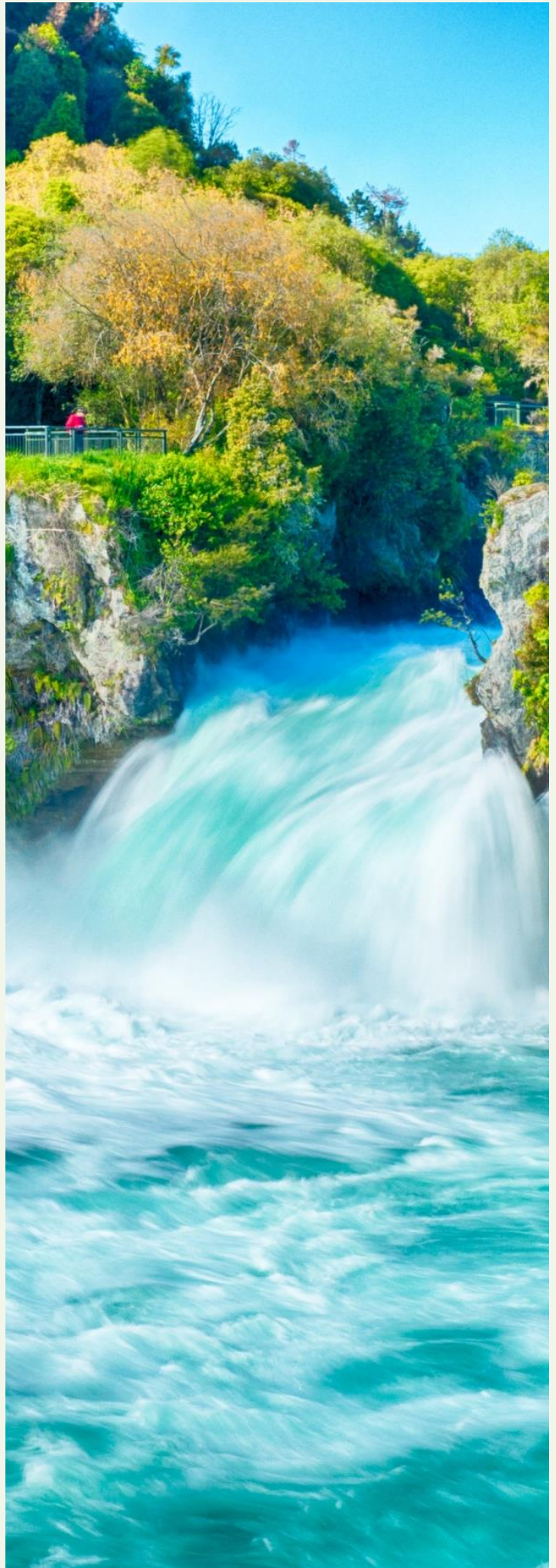
This morning we travel to Matamata, home of Hobbiton. We get to experience the real Middle-earth with a **visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set**, the bucolic setting for The Shire that featured in the Peter Jackson directed films, The Lord of the Rings. Our tour starts with a drive by coach and guide travelling through the picturesque 1,250-acre sheep farm with spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Our guide will escort us whilst walking through the ten-acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton set was created. The Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films can be viewed and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-earth. Upon completion of our walking tour, we enjoy a beverage together in the Green Dragon Inn then return to The Shires Rest.

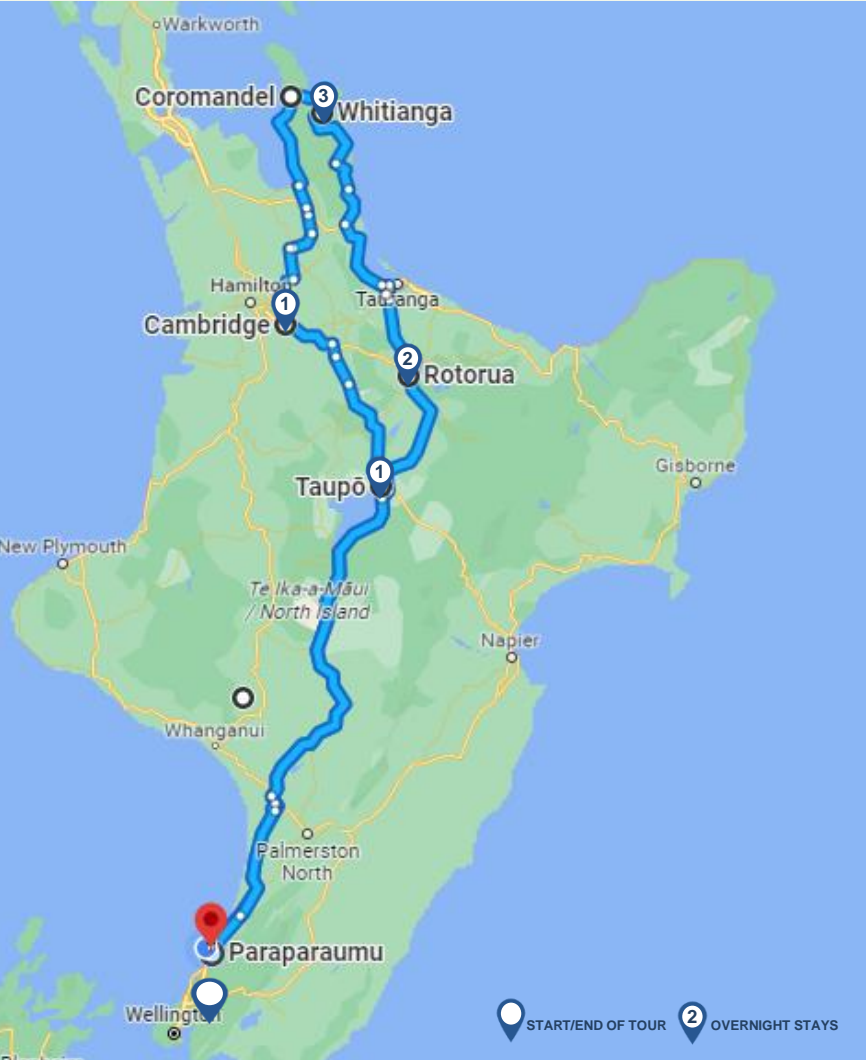
Our next stop is in the country town of Tirau - famous for its corrugated iron constructions! With time for a wander and lunch (own cost). We continue our journey south through the towns of Putaruru and Tokoroa and through the extensive pine forests to Taupo stopping at Huka Falls en-route, before checking into our Lake Front Hotel and enjoy our Farewell Dinner together at the hotel.

## MON 28 Taupo - Home

(B)

Today we travel around the shores of the lake and across the Central Plateau, through Rangitikei across the Manawatu Plains and back to the scenic Kapiti Coast.





# COROMANDEL WINTER ESCAPE 8 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Coach

Sightseeing & Entrance Fees as indicated  
on itinerary.

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Price \$4,545 pp twin share

Single Price \$5,525

**You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.**

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Team Members, ensuring you can just sit back and relax your holiday, as everything is taken care of from start to finish.



**Freephone 0800 470 005**

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